

## CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for affecting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus*, said method comprising the step of:

5        contacting an environment containing *S. aureus* with a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, tetrahydroiso alpha salts, mixtures thereof, and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

10        2. The method of claim 1, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a product comprising of an absorbent material and the compound.

15        4. The method of claim 3, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a tampon, wound dressing, suppository, disposable diaper, and sanitary  
20    napkin.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a composition comprising of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the compound is either a douche or a  
25    topical ointment.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is placed in contact with the *S. aureus* environment using a barrier contraceptive.

9. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, tetrahydroiso alpha salts, mixtures thereof, and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

11. The composition of claim 9, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is either a douche or a topical ointment.

12. A product comprising an absorbent material, and a compound selected from the group consisting of hexahydro beta acids, hexahydro beta salts, tetrahydroiso alpha acids, tetrahydroiso alpha salts, mixtures thereof, and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to kill, inhibit, or otherwise control the growth or proliferation of *S. aureus* without preventing the growth of *Lactobacillus*.

13. The product of claim 12, wherein the concentration of the compound is in the range of from about 0.2 ppm to about 25 ppm.

14. The product of claim 12, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of a natural fiber, a synthetic fiber, a film, a foam, a wood, a pulp, a peat moss, and a superabsorbent polymer.

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